

***Blaesoxipha plumicornis* (Zett.) (Dip.: Sarcophagidae) apparently new to Kent.**

Of the three British species of *Blaesoxipha* only *B. erythrura* (Mg.) has hitherto been reported from Kent. Wainwright (1940. The British Tachinidae (Diptera). Second Supplement. *Trans. ent. Soc. Lond.* **90**: 437) recorded that he and J.E. Collin took it during a visit to Wye Downs (grid reference TR 0745) on 4 and 6 June 1936. This record was repeated by van Emden (1954. *Hdbks. Ident. Br. Insects X* (4a). *Tachinidae and Calliphoridae*).

On 9 August 1991 I took two female *Blaesoxipha plumicornis* during a brief collecting trip to one of the disused chalkpits at Northfleet (TQ 630742). Their identity was readily determined using the characters given by Pape (1987. The Sarcophagidae (Diptera) of Fennoscandia and Denmark. *Fauna Ent. Scandinavica* **19**: 101-2, 105-8). On 27 July 1997 I encountered several males of this species at Ditton Court Quarry near Maidstone (TQ 7157). The site is a disused ragstone quarry part of which now supports a wide range of "downland" plants and the flies seemed mainly attracted to the flowers of wild carrot *Daucus carota*. The larvae of *plumicornis* are seemingly parasitoids of several common grasshoppers e.g. *Chorthippus brunneus* (Thunb.), *C. parallelus* (Zett.) and *Omocestus viridulus* (L.) and hence the fly may prove to be more widespread in the county.— LAURENCE CLEMONS, 14 St John's Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 4NE.

Records of *Nephrocerus* spp. (Dip.: Pipunculidae) from Surrey and Middlesex

The genus *Nephrocerus* comprises exceptionally large members of the Pipunculidae and is represented in the UK by two species, *Nephrocerus scutellatus* (Macquart) and *N. flavicornis* Zetterstedt.

I swept one male of *N. scutellatus* from oak *Quercus* bordering a ride at grid reference SU 981345 in Tugley wood (alias Botany Bay), Surrey (VC 17) on 27 May 1991. A remarkable total of about 80 males and females of *N. scutellatus* were recorded by Colin Plant from two malaise traps on the embankment of the M25 in Surrey (TQ 369529), 27 May-13 July 1993, during an ecological assessment prior to the widening of the motorway. These traps yielded a further 100 or so males and females of this species in the period 1-13 July 1993. The habitat comprised oak scrub and is now lost due to widening of that section of the M25 (C.W. Plant, *pers. comm.*).

The same malaise traps yielded about 50 males and females of *N. flavicornis* between 1-13 July 1993. I swept one male of *N. flavicornis* from Willow (*Salix* sp.) in shelter and semi-shade at Brent Reservoir, grid reference TQ 215882, Middlesex (VC 21) on 14 June 1997. There are a number of oak trees closely adjacent to the capture site.

N. scutellatus was added to the UK list on the basis of a male from West Sussex (VC 13) (Stubbs, 1980. *Proc. Trans. BENHS.* **13**, 46-48) who also discusses candidate Homopteran (Auchenorhyncha) hosts for these large species. The second UK locality was Selborne Common, North Hampshire (VC 12) (Stubbs, 1989. *The Piercer* **1**: 2). Both species of *Nephrocerus* were recorded from a malaise trap at